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For an Amerindian Autohistory. By Georges E. Sioui; translated by Sheila Fischman. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University, 1992. 122 pages. \$29.95 cloth.

Autohistory as explained in this work relates to an examination of the roots of a culture evidenced not only by primary sources (journal notes, speeches, and letters) but also from testimonies and tales passed on from elder generations. While most such works pertain to United States tribes, this edition emphasizes concurrent developments in eastern Canada. Use of such terms as *Indian* is strictly Canadian vis-à-vis *Native American* in the lower forty-eight. This work is purported to present history as ethnohistory of Amerindians in general and Huron in particular.

The first half presents analyses of the differences between Indian culture and all others—e. g., gender roles, geographic origins. What is generally true north of the Canadian border also holds for the lower portion prior to European contact. In clear language, Sioui explains that value systems were very much the same whether the climate was freezing a good part of the year or cloaked in warm sunlight.

The balance of this work is an explanation of the demise of Huronia as a great nation. This work, then, is the author's history of what happened as his people (the author is Huron) were reduced in number because of inroads by other major tribes in eastern Canada and by the French occupation in the eighteenth century. Neglected in this brief work are equal assessments of what happened to other great tribal areas in Canada, especially above the Great Lakes and along the Pacific coast.

Huronia was more than a tribe or collection of tribes; it was a spirit of unity. Yet it was not without its enemies. Engaging the Huron were the Mohawk and Iroquois, who today are powerful groups.

This study demonstrates conclusively the major factors that reduced native cultures—not individual tribes but entire native civilizations in Canada (with implications for the rest of the continent). That the locale is north of the United States is irrelevant—the lessons are for all of us.

A future intensive study of Huronia may explain the demise of the great Sioux, Haida, and Ojibway civilizations. Until that time comes, we would do well to closely examine Huronia—its magnificence, decline, and future.

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